

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 86

Smoking Kills.

Public health experts agree: Taxing tobacco will save lives.

The Tobacco Control Section of the California Department of Health Services has issued an analysis of Proposition 86 titled “Economic and Health Effects of a State Cigarette Excise Tax Increase in California.”

The California Department of Health Services has determined that:

Proposition 86 Will Save Lives:

- Prevent nearly 180,000 deaths due to smoking among California kids now under the age of 17.
- Prevent approximately 120,000 additional deaths due to smoking among current California adult smokers who quit smoking.

Proposition 86 Will Reduce and Prevent Smoking:

- The tax increase alone would prevent more than 700,000 kids now under the age of 17 from becoming adult smokers.
- 120,000 high school students and 30,000 middle school students would either quit or not start smoking.
- More than half a million smokers in California would quit smoking.
- Californians would consume 312 million fewer packs of cigarettes each year.

Proposition 86 Saves Money:

- Nearly \$16.5 billion saved in healthcare costs.
- Increases state revenue by over \$2.2 billion per year.

[See the report for yourself at www.yesprop86.com.]

That’s why Proposition 86 is supported by a broad coalition, including:

American Cancer Society
 American Heart Association
 American Lung Association of California
 American Academy of Pediatrics/California Chapter
 The Children’s Partnership
 American College of Emergency Physicians, California Chapter

California Emergency Nurses Association
 Association of California Nurse Leaders
 California Hospital Association
 League of United Latin American Citizens
 California Black Health Network
 Children Now
 California Primary Care Association
 Tobacco-Free Kids Action Fund
 Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

The initiative specifically raises the tax on a pack of cigarettes by \$2.60 to help fund some of California’s critical healthcare needs, including emergency care services; health insurance for children; nursing education; tobacco use prevention programs; enforcement of tobacco-related laws; and research, prevention, and treatment of serious health problems, including cancers, heart diseases, stroke, asthma, and obesity.

Proposition 86 includes tough financial safeguards, including annual detailed public reporting of the use of tax funds, independent audits, limits on administrative costs, and a strict prohibition against the Legislature raiding the trust funds for any other government program. This means the money will go exactly where voters intend.

This measure will save lives. With smoking-related illnesses driving up our healthcare costs and overloading our healthcare system, Proposition 86 will help discourage smoking and ease some of the problems caused by preventable, smoking-related illnesses.

SAVE LIVES. TAX TOBACCO. VOTE YES ON PROPOSITION 86.

CAROLYN RHEE, Chair

American Cancer Society, California Division

P.K. SHAH, M.D., President

American Heart Association, Western States Affiliate

TIMOTHY A. MORRIS, M.D., Board Member

American Lung Association of California

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 86

Helping people stop smoking and keeping kids from starting is important. Unfortunately, less than 10% of the \$2.1 billion in new tax money goes to programs that help smokers quit or keep kids from starting. Here’s what’s really in the initiative:

- Huge hospital corporations are spending millions promoting Prop. 86 because they will pocket hundreds of millions of dollars every year. HMOs will also get millions of dollars each year.
- Almost 40% of the \$2.1 billion in new tax money from Prop. 86 goes to hospitals—THAT’S OVER \$800 MILLION A YEAR THAT HAS VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH STOPPING SMOKING!
- The \$2.1 billion comes from an unfair \$2.60 tax increase on each pack of cigarettes—an increase of almost 300%. Here’s what Prop. 86 is really all about:
- Section 9 gives hospitals an exemption to antitrust laws.
- There’s nothing in Prop. 86 that limits what hospitals can charge taxpayers for emergency services for the uninsured.

This amounts to an open taxpayer checkbook!

- There are no guarantees on how the money will be spent.
- Under California law approved by voters (Proposition 98), approximately 40% of any new taxes are dedicated to our schools. The huge hospital corporations don’t want to share with our schools and kids, so they included a CONSTITUTIONAL EXEMPTION (Section 15) so that NONE of these funds will go to our schools.

Check it out for yourself: www.86facts.org.

Prop. 86 is really about special interests amending our Constitution for their benefit.

No on 86.

MONICA WEISBRICH, RN, Operating Room Nurse

JAIME ROJAS, President

California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

MALCOLM SIMPSON, Public School Teacher